Traders slam govt for razing Bhati bird market

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Shopkeepers have lashed out at the Punjab government for demolishing the entire bird market at Bhati (near Data Darbar) on the pretext of encroachment for launching remodeling project and demanded that the chief minister take notice of causing a loss of millions to them besides killing a number of birds/animals during the operation.

"The government has really destroyed all of us economically. I can simply say it has killed us," deplores a shopkeeper while talking to Dawn on Thursday.

"The LDA officials brought heavy machinery early on Wednesday morning and started razing all shops — 152 in total. They didn't even care for several innocent birds and animals that were also killed after being buried under debris," he said.

According to another trader, the shopkeepers were constantly in contact with the LDA, DC office and others through their representatives. And the officers were in favour of giving compensation to the shopkeepers first and then demolish the structure. But in the wee hours of Wednesday, the teams entered the area and started demolishing shops without giving ample time to the shopkeepers to at least shift their precious birds worth millions to safe place.

According to a spokesman for LDA, the shops had been built unlawfully at 16-kanal state land that was included in the Bhati chowk remodeling project aiming to get rid of the constant traffic mess and increasing noise and dust pollution in the area.

"There are no reports of birds killed during operation, as the shopkeepers had already taken out all of them and other goods from their shops. And if they have any solid proof, show us," he added.

LAHORE: The rubble of the birds market demolished by the Lahore Development Authority for the extension and remodelling of Bhatti Chowk. — White Star

Committee to inspect industries causing smog

LAHORE: The district administration has constituted a committee to inspect industries causing smog.

The district administration on Thursday conducted a meeting to develop a plan to inspect the industrial units causing smog. The meeting decided to form a committee led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (finance) Mudassir Nawaz, while other members include the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) director, Labour Department director, EPA assistant director (legal) and all assistant commissioners.

The meeting also developed a plan to inspect all boilers and furnaces of industrial units. The committee would suggest legal action against the units involved in causing pollution and smog.

The committee would confiscate illegal carbon bags and would take action, while units using boilers and furnaces would be thoroughly checked. The committee would fully implement the environment protection standard operating procedures (SOPs). — Staff Reporter

Counterfeit cold drink stock seized

LAHORE: A Punjab Food Authority (PFA) enforcement team on Thursday seized a large quantity of counterfeit cold drink stock during a major crackdown near Faizpur Interchange.

The team also filed two cases resulting in the arrest of two suspects.

The team recovered 25,800 litres of prepared fake cold drinks, 1,150 litres of adulterated solution and 200 PET bottles. The team also destroyed 2,700 bottles, 120 kg caps, 150 kg labels and 450 kg flavour on the spot. The team also seized 10 drums, filling machines, empty bottles, a cooking vessel, cylinder, pumps, and coolers and weighing machines used in the unlawful business. — **Staff Reporter**

Military court trial

LHC bench recuses itself from hearing Hassaan's plea

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A Lahore High Court two-judge bench on Thursday recused itself from hearing an appeal of Barrister Hassaan Niazi, a nephew of the PTI founding chairman, Imran Khan, against his trial in a military court and requested the chief justice to fix it before the same bench previously seized with the matter.

The bench comprising Justice Farooq Haider and Justice Tariq Nadeem took up the appeal as Advocate Faisal Siddiqui and Assistant Advocate General Farrukh Khan appeared before it.

The bench noted that the appeal was previously heard by a two-judge bench headed by Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmad.

Justice Haider stated that Justice Ahmad was available at the principal seat, therefore, the appeal should be heard by the same bench.

Justice Haider sent the appeal to the chief justice with a request to fix the same before the bench of Justice Ahmad or any other appropriate bench.

The appeal contended that following his arrest in the May 9 case, Mr Niazi was not produced before a civilian court, instead, Sarwar Road police handed gave him in the custody of military. It argued that this handover was unlawful and carried out without any judicial order.

Mr Niazi asked the court to declare null and void the commanding officer's notification dated Aug 17, 2023, authorising his custody by the military.

He also sought to set aside his transfer to military custody and all subsequent proceedings conducted by the military court.

The appeal further prayed for Mr Niazi's release from jail or an order directing his production before an anti-terrorism court.

Mr Niazi was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in December 2023 in the Jinnah House attack case.

VERDICT RESERVED: The Lahore High Court on Thursday reserved a verdict on a petition challenging the appointment of Immigration & Passports Director General Mustafa Jamal Qazi.

Justice Khalid Ishaq heard the final arguments of the federal government and the respondent's lawyer before reserving the judgement.

Advocate Safdar Shaheen Pirzada argued on behalf of the respondent DG that the petitioner had not approached the court with clean hands and that he had no cause of action against the respondent DG.

The counsel argued that the respondent's appointment on deputation had been made in accordance with law, asking the court to dismiss the petition.

A federal law officer also submitted a reply on behalf of the interior ministry, stating that the appointment was made in the light of the recent amendments to the Civil Servants Act.

He argued that under the amended law, the prime minister had the authority to appoint bureaucrats to such positions.

On the other hand, Advocate Asif Ali Khitchi, the petitioner in person, argued that the appointment had been made by the previous caretaker government on deputation in violation of merit and rules.

He requested the court to set aside the impugned appointment and extension in the functioning of Mr Qazi as DG.

Pollution, smog affecting humans and birds alike

By Shoaib Ahmed

LAHORE: Fast urbanisation, air pollution and smog are badly hurting the lungs of not only the citizens of Punjab, especially of Lahore, but also affecting the health of birds too. Studies conducted by various academic and research institutes have proven that smog and urbanisation are badly affecting both humans and wildlife in Lahore and suburbs, says Dr Ghulam Rasool, deputy chief wildlife ranger.

According to him, over the period of the last 30 years, Lahore expanded both horizontally and vertically engulfing many green areas, including woodlands and agricultural spaces. Practically, the cities around Lahore have been merged into it, making Lahore world's 27th largest city as well as the most polluted one. This expansion has resulted in the massive decline in the vegetation cover whether its agriculture space or guava orchards, which were once quite common around Lahore.

Dr Ghulam Rasool says green spaces from where we use to collect herbs for biology practical notebooks are now a densely populated housing society.

"There is less room for native plants and animals as agriculture and forest land have been turned into highways, homes, industrial areas and concrete surfaces. Many species of birds, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals struggle to live in and around Lahore as there are fewer native tree species, fewer natural nesting locations and less ground cover." For instance, he adds, researchers from the Punjab University found that numerous native bird species had a dramatic decline in almost all areas of Lahore such as white-eyes, warblers, fruit eating birds like yellow-footed green pigeons, owls, black drongo and many others.

According to a wildlife official, animals at captive wildlife facilities such as the Lahore Zoo have been reporting eye irritation, breathing difficulties due to smog and pollution. Smog, including dust and particulate matter 2.5 that settle in the lungs, causes severe respiratory issues. Air pollution can lead to soil nutrient reduction, acidification of surfaces, making habitats less hospitable for wildlife.

Denser built-areas trap heat and may make air stagnation more likely, worsening smog events.

Quoting a recent research, the official says, more than 150 bird species previously documented in Lahore are now a rare sight. Experts attribute this to air pollution, shortage of nesting space, urban expansion and increase in scavengers like black kites and crows.

To save humans, the wild birds and animals living in Lahore and suburbs, the experts like Ghulam Rasool term it very important to preserve and expand green spaces, planting indigenous trees, protecting old trees which provide nesting and food. For Lahore, they describe planting fruit trees and shrubs as important measures to save fruit-eating species of birds like koels, green pigeons etc.

It is also very important to reduce sources of smog like better regulation of vehicles, industries, crop burning, improve waste management, create urban wildlife corridors: connect green spaces so wildlife can move and avoid isolation. In captive settings like zoos and wildlife parks, protective measures can also be applied like extra health and nutritional support for animals, dust suppression, spraying water etc.

Fawad, Ismail call on Shujaat

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's former leaders led by former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday reached PML-Q president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's residence to muster his support for his "Release Imran Khan" campaign.

Mr Chaudhry tweeted that he and his colleagues Imran Ismail and Mahmood Maulvi met Shujaat Hussain who "termed our efforts as tantamount to saving the country". He claimed that Mr Hussain assured the delegation that he would be standing with them as well as play his due role to bring down political temperature in the country

Meanwhile, a press release shared from Shujaat Hussain's residence stated the delegation led by Fawad Chaudhry discussed political situation in the country.

The meeting, which was also attended by provincial minister Shafay Hussain, agreed to work closely to bring the country out of the current tough situation and strive for its progress.

Mr Chaudhry said Shujaat Hussain had always exercised the politics of reconciliation and brought people closer. He said that he had always sought guidance from Mr Hussain and continued doing so.

PML-Q president Mr Hussain stressed the need for close coordination among political parties and that all should join hands to work for the betterment and progress of the country.

He said the army was protecting the country's borders well and it defeated India in the May war. He said the army jawans were also fighting against the terrorists and stressed that every stakeholder should play its role to save the country from the menace of terrorism.

BARRISTER GOHAR: PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Khan along with Intizar Panjotha and Ali Ijaz Butter reached Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) to meet ailing incarcerated party's vice-chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday, but were denied access.

They continued waiting for almost two hours and then left. — **Staff Reporter**

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

QUAID-E-AWAM UNIVERSITY
OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY,
NAWABSHAH

NOTICE REGARDING

15th ACADEMIC CONVOCATION-2025 of QUEST NAWABSHAH

Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science & Technology, Nawabshah is organizing its **15th Academic Convocation-2025** to honor and recognize the achievements of applicable Batches' Graduates on **Saturday 20 December 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Multipurpose Hall of the University at Nawabshah.**

All Graduates of **B.E/B.S. (20 & 21-Batches), QUEST, Nawabshah QUEST Campus Larkano (Old), Master and Ph.D.** Graduates of QUEST, **Bachelor of Technology** (Pass/Honors). **Bachelor of Science (Industrial Technology) and Bachelor of Technology (04-Year Programme) of 18-Batch only of** Affiliated Colleges who wish to get their Degrees/Gold/Silver Medals and merit certificates, may participate.

The candidates are required to wear prescribed **Academic Robes/Gowns, which may be obtained on a day before convocation from the tailor available at Examination Counter near convocation ball on payment of Rs. 3200 (2.500/- refundable) on safe return on same day on payment of the rent.**

The last date for Submission of Application **Forms for admission to the university convocation** is **15 December 2025 till 05.00.pm. For further details please visit QUEST website.**

(Prof. Dr. Kishan Chand Makwana)
REGISTRAR QUEST NAWABSHAR

Controller of Examinations: 0244-9370390 | Website: www.quest.edu.pk
Registrar: 0244-9370373 Fax: 0244-9370367 | E-mail: registrarequest.edu.pk

PID(H) 176/2025

Maryam off to Brazil to attend COP30

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz left for Brazil to attend the climate moot — COP30 being held in the city of Bel m from Thursday to Nov 21.

"CM Maryam departed for Bel m, Brazil, to participate in the COP30. During the event, she will brief participants on Punjab's flagship projects — Suthra Punjab (Clean Punjab) and e-mobility initiatives," a government statement said on Thursday.

In a post on X before her departure, the CM said: "Departing for COP30 Belem, Brazil, taking Punjab's climate transformation journey from Suthra Punjab to E-Mobility, AQI Leadership, and Wildlife Protection to the world stage."

She further said she was proud to represent a new wave of climate leadership from Pakistan rooted in innovation, inclusion and a shared responsibility for our planet.

"I look forward to meaningful stakeholder dialogues with world leaders, scientists, and innovators to advance shared solutions for our planet's future," she maintained.

In the 30th UN Climate Change Conference or COP30, nearly 200 countries are meeting to review progress under the Paris Agreement and plan the next steps to limit global warming. This event comes 10 years after the Paris Agreement and halfway to 2030 — the deadline for many national climate targets.

According to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), emissions are dropping in some areas.

"If current policies continue, scientists warn that the world could warm by 2.6°C to 2.8°C by the end of the century. COP30 could become a turning point — or another missed chance," it says.

According to the Punjab government, during the conference, Maryam Nawaz is scheduled to hold meetings with several prominent global l leaders.

"The CM is expected to meet the vice presidents of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), representatives and directors from the World Bank Climate Change Division and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), as well as officials from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)," says government and adds that Ms Nawaz's visit to Brazil holds great significance in the context of environmental policy and climate action.

The Punjab government is keeping mum on who is part of the CM's delegation. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, who also holds the environment ministry, is said to be accompanying the CM along with some top bureaucrats but no official word has been dropped in this respect. Besides, the Maryam administration also chose not to say a word whether the CM had left for Brazil on a chartered plane or opted for any foreign airlines. No footage of her departure at Lahore airport was released to the media.

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari did not respond to *Dawn*'s queries in this regard.

Sources believe that controversy surrounding CM Maryam's 'official visit' to Japan in August last over the 'private individuals', including her family members, as a part of it, forced the PML-N government to keep her Brazil tour in low profile.

Maryam had to face scathing criticism over the inclusion of her family members and their friends as a part of her Japan visit that raised questions about spending a huge sum of money from the exchequer with impunity. — **Zulqernain Tahir**